768.7415

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Boundary questions between Greece and Bulgaria.

Additonal information regarding cruelties inflicted upon the inhabitants of the Drams region resulting from activities of Bulgarian agents, and advises of the intention to incorporate Macedonia and Thrace as intregal parts of Bulgaria.

768.7415/50

mcs

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Desp. #3571
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Dec. 8, 1941 From / To Greek Legation

File No. 740.00116 European War 1939/465

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE UNDER SECRETARY

6 N A

November 5, 1941

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 6 - 1941
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1941 NOV 26 AM 11 42
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

NE - Mr. Murray:

The Greek Minister left with me personally today the attached communication.

I should think it would be desirable for Mr. Atherton to talk with the Minister of Bulgaria in order that the attitude of this Government may be made known to the Bulgarian Government. I suggest that a reply to this note be drafted, taking that line.

U:SW:IJ

NE
EU

ROYAL GREEK LEGATION
WASHINGTON

No. 3228 November 4, 1941.

November 26, 1941

Note 11/6/41 re 11/4/41 from Greek Legation

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
NOV 5 1941
MR. WELLES

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1941 NOV 6 AM 42

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 6 - 1941
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JAN 13 1942
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Excellency:

Information has reached the Royal Hellenic Government according to which the Bulgarian Government have proceeded to the issue of a royal decree by which the region of the Aegean which comprises the territories between the Rivers Strymon and Nestos has been apportioned for the establishment of Bulgar peasants. The decree would foresee that the Bulgars who left those regions after the voluntary exchange of populations which took place in execution of the 1919 Greco-Bulgar Convention would be particularly chosen for reestablishment in this

His Excellency
Mr. Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State,
etc., etc., etc.,
Washington, D.C.

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this region.

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention on this information which we have every reason to believe.

This measure of the Bulgarian Government, taken in definite opposition to their contractural obligations, constitutes a new proof of their decision to denationalize the Greek regions of Thrace.

In bringing the above to Your Excellency's knowledge, I am, with renewed assurances of my highest consideration

C. Diamantopoulos

C. Diamantopoulos,
Minister of Greece.

November 26, 1941

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of November 4, 1941, regarding the reported action of the Bulgarian Government in establishing Bulgarian nationals in the area of Thrace between the Strymon and Nestos Rivers.

The Department will be pleased to make known to the Bulgarian authorities the American Government's attitude regarding this subject.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:

Sumner Welles

The Honorable

Cimon P. Diamantopoulos,

Minister of Greece.

NE:GVA:EMA 11/6/41

768.7415/51

CR NOV 25 1941

PS/HT

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Athens, Greece,
November 25, 1944

UNRESTRICTED

No. 282

Subject: Forwarding an appeal by the "Greek Eastern Roumelia" League to include Eastern Roumelia in the Greek State.

Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on November 14, ~~1944~~, eight members of the council of the "Greek Eastern Roumelia League" called upon me and read to me an address regarding Greek claims to the Eastern Roumelia district of Bulgaria, of which I enclose a copy as of possible interest to the Department.

In my opinion, despite its quaint grammar, faulty spelling, and inadequate punctuation, this address is well worth the attention of persons interested in post-war Balkan settlements. The main plea which it puts forward, for the restoration of "Eastern Roumelia" to Greece, may not fall just now into the realm of practical politics, but there are the strongest moral grounds for demanding more justice than has been shown in the past to Greece, "this eternal victim of conflicting interests", while even from the point of view of those interests themselves, at least on the part of the Western powers, a stronger and more satisfied Greece may well appear more desirable now than it did before the advent of modern methods of warfare robbed the Straits of their historic importance in the strategic field.

Respectfully yours,

Lincoln MacVeagh

Enclosure:
1. Copy of appeal by the "Greek Eastern Roumelia League".

File No. 715
Sent in original and hectograph to Department
LMacV/dew

HECTO SENT TO DCR/C

AIR MAIL

Enclosure to Despatch No. 282, from the American Embassy Athens, dated November 21, 1944, subject: Forwarding an appeal by the "Greek Eastern Roumelia" League to include Eastern Roumelia in the Greek State.

His Excellency Mr. Lincoln MacVeagh
Ambassador of the United States of America
Athens.

Your Excellency,

The Council of the league "GREEK EASTERN ROUMELIA", representing hundreds of thousands emigrants, refugees and exiled Greeks of that Province, scattered all over Greece and the Middle East, together with those still under the Bulgarian yoke, wish you a hearty welcome to your second Home, the birthplace of Liberty and Democracy, the eternal city of Athens.

During the three and half years of enemy occupation, the Greek people have suffered untold of cruelties in the hands of their oppressors. Had it not been for the relief given by the International Red Cross, the organised murder by the three confederates in crime, Germans, Italians and Bulgars, would have achieved the complete destruction of our race.

Wholesale deportations and murders on the slightest pretext and often even without it, the erasing to the ground of whole villages, the systematic undermining of the people's health through inanition and the consequent deaths by the thousand were the daily lot of a proud people, whose sole crime was their love for Liberty and their refusal to submit to brutal force.

In the darkest period of this war, when our enemies thought then had won it, they made it abundantly clear that the "new order of things" they intended to establish, was meant to last at least a thousand years! This they were proclaiming, knowing fully well that their war was one of conquest: Ours is a war of Right against brutal force, of Liberty against serfdom. Now, on the eve of a triumphant victory, when the Rights of each Nation are been carefully examined and the foundations for the security of each individual state, that suffered an unprovoked attack, are been laid, the Greeks of Eastern Roumelia appeal to your Excellency and trough Yourselves to your Great President for the restitution of that Province to the Mother Country.

At the declaration of the Russo-Turkish war in 1878, Eastern Roumelia was preponderantly Greek, the Bulgarian element then forming only a small minority. There were there no bulgarian schools, nor bulgarian churches, nor bulgarian monasteries and the Bulgars were educated in greek schools and attended mass in greek churches and monasteries.

The topical terminology of Eastern Roumelia comprised only Greek and Turkish names and none Bulgarian; and the constitution of Eastern Roumelia, after the signature of the Berlin Treaty, established Greek, Turkisn and Bulgarian as the official languages of the land on an absolutely equal footing.

An ethnological map of the Balkan Peninsula, as it was in 1878 drawn up by Stanthorp and published in London by the Royal Gegraphical Society, fully corroborates all the above and shows the then incontestable preponderance of the Greek element in Eastern Roumelia.

The situation remained practically unaltered until 1885 when Bulgaria, by a coup d'Etat, annexed that Province. What happened since 1885 is well known, Confiscation of private and communal property and wholesale deportations under the aegis of the Bulgarian Government, without the slightest protest on behalf of any of the powers that signed the Berlin Treaty, were of daily occurance and amongst the means and ways the Bulgars used in order to exterminate or eradicate the Greeks from the land of their fathers.

Things came to a climax in 1906, when almost all Greek property was seized, wholesale expatriations were forced upon the Greeks and wherever resistance was offered, massacres followed! Their Holinesses the Ecumenic Patriarchs Basil III 1923-29 and Fotios II 1929-35 the former as bishop of Anchialos and the latter as archimandrite of Philippopolis in 1906 were subjected to the most heinous treatment by the Bulgars.

Exactly thirtyeight years have passed since then!

Surely, your Excellency, such a short period, especially when filled up with acts of utter vandalism, cannot constitute a right to possession! In the present war the Bulgars have surpassed the Germans in cruelty. Over seventhy thousand Greeks, of which about 10,000 children have been exterminated and scores of thousands have been deported by the Bulgars during their recent occupation of Western Thrace and Macedonia. Had they been victorious very few Greeks would have remained in those two Provinces a few years hence. Would that too have constituted a right for the Bulgars to annex them for ever?

Five times during the last thirtyeight years the Bulgars created a refugee problem for the Greek Government viz in 1906, 1913, 1915-18, 1922 and 1941-44 and we are convinced that they will continue so, whenever, to their minds, an occasion arises, unless a decisif step is taken to put a stop to all such malpractices.

Now that a definite settlement of all outstandings is sought after and a Status of lasting peace and security is aimed at, we demand, your Excellency, redress of all these wrongs, we demand fairplay!

We have the right to demand the restitution of Eastern Roumelia to Greece for economical reasons, for reasons of security, because of our historical and ethnologocal Rights and last but not least, because of all the sacrifices Greece has made and those she is ready to make until the war has been brought to its happy conclusion.

Your Excellency is well aware of the poverty of Greece. To the lot of each Greek falls a quarter only of the arable land owned by a Bulgar. The restitution of Greek Eastern Roumelia to the Mother Country, besides redressing a very great wrong, would also establish a necessary and much needed equilibrium.

Eastern Roumelia should be given to us for reasons of security too. Our great Venizelos had once declared that our North Boundaries are like a body without a spinal column! That spinal column is Eastern Roumelia. A look at the map will convince anyone of the correctness of that statement.

We feel sure that the importance of that Province as an integral part of free Greece does not escape your Excellency.

A decision contrary to our revindications would not only cause the deepest disappointment amongs all Greeks; it would also convince the Bulgars that they may go on commiting crimes without fear of punishment. Such a mentality exists among them; their invasion of 1941 and their recent attitude, when, though vanquished, schamelessly insisted upon the occupation of Western Thrace and Macedonia and their impudent behaviour towards allied officers are sufficient proofs of it.

So far whenever a reshuffle took place in the Balkans, it did so at the expense of the Greeks, even after victorious wars such as those of 1912-13, 1914-18. The greatest severity has ever been shown to us; our smallest mistakes have always been put under a magnifying glass! Whereas the Bulgars, whose history is full of abject crimes, are constantly let off very cheap.

We are at a loss to understand this striking partiality evinced by all towards a race who have not so much as fought for their liberty, whose history is full of the most hideous atrocities and who repeatedly have given proofs that they possess to the highest degree the vilest trait in one's caracter, be him an individual or a Nation viz ungratefulness. Since their liberation, the Bulgars had twice the occasion of showing their gratefulness towards their liberators, the Russians. Instead, both times they joined the opposite camp! For the signature of the armistice at Salonica in 1918 the Bulgarian Commission was accompnied by the U.S. representative to Sofia and during the peace negotiations that followed it shocked the sence of fairplay to see the assistance the Bulgars received from every quarter. In 1941, the Bulgars again paid back their benefactors in a coin quite Bulgarian! They, a small state, declared the war to the Great Powers that helped them in times of difficulty! And we ask ourselves the question: how long is this partiality towards an unworthy race going to last? We demand, your Excellency, that justice may at last be meted out to Greece, this eternal victim of conflicting interests!

The whole of the history of Greece has been a continuous struggle for liberty! Twice during the last twentyfive years she gave all she had; twice she bled profusely fighting on the side of the Allies for freedom, Christian faith and every thing else that makes life worth living for! In 1940 she took the challenge and fought what looked at the time a desperate struggle!

If the betterment of the world is our goal, then Morality, which should govern the relations between men, must also be the underlying principle of all relations between states. Moral force must always be given an universal appreciation, which, wherever possible, must be accompanied by a real reward, especialy so when such a reward is in absolute harmony with the sence of Justice and fairplay.

As in the past, so during the present war, Greece has given proofs of such moral force as it stirred up universal admiration and were she to be given marks for it, she would, we feel sure, obtain the highest amongst all Balkan and other European states. Greece ever a bulwark against all agressions and a staunch defender of liberty and Christian faith should not only be given every moral support, but also the means for rendering her position impregnable. These means coprise Eastern Roumelia, the restitution of which will be an act of fairplay and Christian justice to Greece.

We feel confident, your Excellency, that both, your Great President and yourselves, in your clearsightedness and great political experience have been convinced of the love of all the Greeks for your Great Nations and of the value of which a great and strong Greece can be to the cause of Liberty, Democracy and Peace. A strong Greece however cannot be understood without Greek Eastern Roumelia!

We therefore appeal to your Excellency and through your Goodselves to the Great President of free and democratic United States of America for justice to Greece and the restitution of our native land, Greek Eastern Roumelia, to the Mother Country; it will be a Christian act worthy of your Great Nation.

Long live the United States of America

Long live the Great President Roosvelt

Long live your Excellency

We beg your Excellency to accept the expression of our highest esteem.

Central File: Decimal File 768.7415, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Greece And Bulgaria, Boundary Questions. Composition Of Differences., November 4, 1941 - November 25, 1944. November 4, 1941 - November 25, 1944. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1940-1944. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111396004%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 23 June 2025.